

## State System Plan Update/Economic Impact Study

The Mississippi Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division, initiated an update of the Mississippi Statewide Airports Study that was last completed in 1984. This updated plan provides a comprehensive look at each airport and the overall air transportation needs of the State for the next 20 years. In addition, this study serves as a template to provide the Aeronautics Division with the tools needed to continue to improve Mississippi's system of airports in a logical and cost-effective manner. In addition to reviewing the aviation system's future capital needs, the Study includes a detailed analysis of the economic impact aviation has on Mississippi. Also, the State's future air service needs are analyzed in detail.

The State of Mississippi is home to a system of airports that is as diverse as each region of the State served. There are currently 78 publicly owned airports in Mississippi's extensive airport system. Like Mississippi's highway, waterway and rails systems, the State's airports are a vital component of the infrastructure network. Seven of the State's airports support regularly scheduled air carrier activities. The air carrier airports range in size from Jackson International that serves more than 600,000 enplanements annually with service by large air carriers to smaller, regional/commuter airports that provide feeder service to airline connecting hubs to provide travelers with access to the national air transportation system. The vast majority of Mississippi's population is within one hour's driving time of an in-state, commercial service airport. At the other end of the spectrum are general aviation airports whose facilities vary greatly. The State's system of general aviation airports range from turf strips that primarily serve recreational and agricultural needs to runways in excess of one mile long that accommodate the world's most demanding corporate business jets. The economic role that each individual airport plays in its local community and/or the surrounding region should not be underestimated. In addition to business access for local corporations, suppliers and transient activities, the system of airports is responsible for supporting many health, welfare and safety-related activities that may go unnoticed by the public at large.

- Mississippi's system of 78 public-use airports provides a diverse array of services ranging from commercial air service on large jet aircraft to agricultural spraying to flight training to just-in-time delivery of time sensitive goods.
- There are currently seven airports that provide Mississippi's 2.7 million residents with regularly scheduled airline service.
- These seven airports accommodate more than 840,000 enplanements annually.
- Additionally, 71, public-use, general aviation airports provide national corporations, local businesses and Mississippi residents with efficient air access to points in Mississippi and beyond.
- There are nearly 30 airports with runways of 5,000 feet or greater providing business jet access throughout the State.
- There are nearly 1,800 general aviation aircraft in the State that are used by businesses and individuals.
- More than 1.6 million aircraft operations (one arrival plus one departure equals two operations) occur annually throughout Mississippi's system of airports.
- The system of airports is responsible for more than \$637 million in economic activity that supports 10,347 Mississippi employees earning nearly \$203.7 million in payroll.